

b) Amendments to the Claims

1-13. (*Canceled*)

14. (*Original*) A process of making a VUV transmitting glass having high resistance to optical damage to excimer laser radiation in the 157 nm wavelength region, said process comprising the steps of:

providing particles of SiO₂;

dehydrating the particles;

fluorine doping and consolidating the particles to form a dry, non-porous monolithic body of transparent fused silicon oxyfluoride glass with a fluorine content less than 0.5 weight percent.

15. (*Original*) A process according to claim 14, wherein the particles are reacted with a fluorine-containing gas such that the amount of fluorine incorporated into the glass resulting from consolidation is in the range of 0.1 to 0.4 weight percent.

16. (*Original*) A process according to claim 15 wherein the fluorine-containing gas is selected from the group consisting of CF₄, SiF₄, F₂, SF₆, C₂F₆, C₃F₈ and mixtures thereof.

17-36. (*Canceled*)